

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-25 are in the application.

The Examiner stated that the title is not descriptive and that a new title is required. In response, the title has been revised herein.

The Examiner stated that the information disclosure statement (IDS) filed October 20, 2006 and specifically documents JP 2000-358059, JP 2002-223217, and JP 2003-229869 "are not in English, . . . and considered only to the best [of the] examiner's abilities. . . ."

Another IDS accompanies this Amendment which cites documents JP 2000-358059, JP 2002-223217, and JP 2003-229869, and which provides English abstracts or equivalents. It is respectfully requested that such documents be considered by the Examiner and that an acknowledgment thereof be provided to the applicant.

Claims 1-5, 11, and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Liu (U.S. Patent No. 7,103,371 B1). Claims 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu. Claims 6, 9, 10, 14 and 18-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu in view of Watanabe (U.S. Publication No. 2006/0044436 A1). Claims 7-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu in view of Watanabe and further in view of well known prior art (MPEP 2144.03).

Accordingly, each of claims 1-25 was rejected based on Liu either alone or in combination with one or more other references.

Liu was filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on October 22, 2003.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. JP 2003-001177, which was filed in the Japanese Patent Office on January 7, 2003. A copy of such priority document was supplied to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and an acknowledgment thereof was provided in the Notification of Missing Requirements under 35 U.S.C. 371 in the United States Designated/Elected Office mailed June 22, 2005. A certified English translation of the priority document (i.e., Japanese Application No. 2003-001177) accompanies this Amendment.

As such, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is entitled to a filing date which is earlier than the U.S. filing date of Liu. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Liu is not an effective prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that all of the above-mentioned rejections based on Liu be withdrawn.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been overcome, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional rejections and/or objections which the Examiner might have.

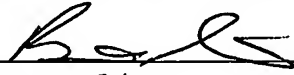
Application No.: 10/506,461

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.3-1048

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: May 12, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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